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last year and this year have not all been confined to the same building, or even to the same neighborhood; nor can I say that an epidemic of the disease has existed. There are many people who deny the existence of the disease (this includes some of the native practitioners of medicine); therefore, I am led to believe that cases have existed and not been reported.

Most of the cases seen by me were protected by mosquito netting, but during the day, owing to the heat and oppression, they said that they had to have the netting raised, preferring to have a few bites of the mosquito rather than to be denied the comfort they felt by removing the net.

The first case of yellow fever that came under my observation in 1900, July 15, was several hundred yards from my residence; the next person attacked was my wife, on July 18, 1900. I cared for her and no doubt was bitten by mosquitoes, but did not become ill until August 16, 1900.

The premises were thoroughly disinfected under the direction of Dr. Allen Jumel, Jr., medical representative Louisiana State board of health. In the latter part of October, Dr. W. A. Blackburn (dentist) and wife came into our house to stay, and his wife was taken ill with yellow fever November 3. He cared for his wife during the time, and I am sure that he was bitten by the mosquitoes, and until the present time has not been ill with yellow fever.

During the present year there were no known cases of the disease from the early part of February until June 23. The case that occurred on the latter date was in the hospital of the United Fruit Company, and I am sure that all the beds were not furnished with nets; in this case it would be hard to tell whether the subsequent cases that occurred in the town in individuals who had visited the institution (distant 2½ miles), were from contact or from inoculation by the mosquitoes.

Another case that I observed (Mrs. Read), was attended by her husband, as a nurse was not obtainable, was taken ill about July 4, was very much annoyed by mosquitoes, and no doubt both of them were bitten during her illness; to the present time the husband has shown no symptoms of the disease; however, he tells me that he suffered a severe malaise for about three days during her sickness. He did not mention it to me at the time.

Under the present conditions I find it very difficult to arrive at any definite conclusions, or to make any satisfactory investigations.

Respectfully,

PAUL OSTERHOUT,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

COSTA RICA.

Reports from Port Limon—Fruit port.

PORT LIMON, COSTA RICA, *August 10, 1901.*

SIR: I have to make the following report of the conditions and transactions at this port during the week ended August 10, 1901:

Present estimated population, 4,000. Number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, cases, 4; deaths, 2; number of cases and deaths from smallpox during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from typhus fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from cholera during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from plague during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes dur-

ing the week, 4. Prevailing diseases, malarial fever in its various forms and yellow fever. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, not good. Since August 1 8 cases and 3 deaths have been reported.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels: August 5, steamship *Alene*; crew, 38; passengers from this port, 3; passengers in transit, 5; pieces of baggage disinfected, none. August 7, steamship *Kitty*; crew, 20; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none. August 8, steamship *Olympia*; crew, 38; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none. August 9, steamship *Hispania*; crew, 22; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none. August 10, steamship *Alabama*; crew, 18; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none.

Respectfully,

D. W. GOODMAN,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

The mosquito and yellow fever—The use of mosquito bars.

PORT LIMON, COSTA RICA, *August 15, 1901.*

SIR: Replying to Bureau letter of August 2 (McE.), asking for information as to the use of mosquito netting in houses in which were yellow-fever patients, I have to say the occupants of the 2 houses reported on were not in the habit of using the netting, mosquitoes being very troublesome for only a few hours in the early part of the night, and again after daylight—that is, only in the interim between the land and sea breezes. I have urged the use of the netting in my conversations with nonimmunes since my arrival here, and I think with good results.

Some weeks ago Dr. Steggall, who has charge of the hospitals of the Costa Rican Railroad and of the United Fruit Company, consulted with me on this subject. We agreed on a plan, which has been carried out as follows: The upper story of 1 section of the hospital of the United Fruit Company, has been reserved exclusively for yellow-fever patients, permission having been obtained to take all private patients there, as soon as a diagnosis was made or suspected. These wards are shut off from the other portion of the hospital, and every window and door opening is supplied with a frame covered with netting. This is better than individual mosquito bars. The result has been satisfactory. At the Charity or City Hospital, however, no such good conditions exist, for while the city physician, Dr. Aguila, is fully alive to the situation and its needs, he claims the Government gives him no funds or means to carry out these measures, and it is in this hospital that most of the deaths have occurred.

I have received several copies of Department Circular No. 71, and will give one to each of the local physicians in Port Limon.

Since writing the above I have learned that the governor has placed at the disposal of the city physician, funds sufficient to put mosquito netting at the doors and windows of the Charity Hospital, and to make other improvements necessary for the comfort and safety of its occupants.

Respectfully,

D. W. GOODMAN,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

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